MATH + SUMMERTIME — CLASSROOMS = FUN

PARENTS — JUST BECAUSE SCHOOL IS OVER FOR THE YEAR, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN THE LEARNING STOPS. PAGE 21

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Zimmerman trial starts off with swear words
PAGE 07

Ukulele Orchestra: 40 strings of fun
PAGES 14-15

Sittenfield on psychic friends and 'Sisterland'
PAGES 16-17

Avoid hearing 'I'm bored' all summer
PAGES 18-19

#PROTECTANDSERVE

Tweet tweet. More and more Philadelphia Police officers are using social media to get tips and keep the public informed. **A cop on every corner.** PPD social media manager and sergeant says it's a great way to stay connected to what's going on in the city. PAGE 02

1 NEWS

Top 3

Trending online at Metro.us

1 VIDEO: 'Creepy spider scares meteorologist'

2 'Health of U.S. children improves, but more live in poverty'

3 'Aaron Carter beat up in Boston by New Kids on the Block fans'

Quoted

"Regardless of how the U.S. Supreme Court rules in the two marriage cases, there will be much work left to do in Pennsylvania for our laws to catch up to the broad and growing support for equality in civil marriage and non-discrimination in the workplace."

STATE REP. BRIAN SIMS, IN A STATEMENT ON THE EXPECTED DOMA RULING

Tweet cops: Philly PD pioneers social media

Logged in. Philly police are blazing a trail when it comes to the use of Twitter, especially among beat cops.

When Philadelphia Police Det. Paul Guercio took to Twitter to ask followers for surveillance footage of the June 5 building collapse, he received a reply within the hour. Several hours later, the same user posted a link to a YouTube clip showing bricks raining down near 22nd and Market streets.

Officers are increasingly using Twitter to amplify their reach, multiply man hours and encourage those who might not normally talk to police to respond with clues, according to Sgt. Eric Gripp, Philadelphia Police Department's manager of digital and social media.

"I feel like a lot of information and tips we wouldn't otherwise receive, we get through Twitter," Gripp said. "A lot of people are concerned about anonymity. People are afraid to be seen as, unfortunately, what some people see as 'snitching to police.' This way, people can contact us."

The Philadelphia Police Department currently has about 36 registered "tweeters" — and it's not just higher-ups who are getting into the game.

"A lot of other police departments are using Twitter to the scale that we are. Though, as far as those where individual officers out on the street level are using it, there are none that I'm aware of right now," Gripp said. "Certain departments will have certain representatives, usually commanders, but as far as officers out on the street, we seem to be spearheading that."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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How to get verified

All officers can request to receive verified @PPD Twitter accounts.

- Groups of four to five officers undergo a four-hour Twitter training course.
- "The last class was about three weeks ago," Gripp said. "I believe we have five officers who came through, one of which was a chief inspector who is now our highest-ranking 'tweeter.' I still feel silly saying that."

Quoted

"Back in the day, there was a cop on every corner. We want to think there's still always a foot or beat officer residents can talk with about what's going on." Sgt. Eric Gripp

'But it is lightning that does the work'

Mark Twain's quote came to mind as lightning strikes Center City during an intense and sudden downpour that came through the city yesterday afternoon. The cool rain was a welcome relief from the stifling heat and humidity at the day's start. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Family affairs

Daughter threatens to sic gang on parents

An Allentown woman threatened to send Latin Kings gang members to kill her father and stepmother, police said.

Megan Koch, 27, also told her parents Sunday night, "One way or another, I'm going to make sure you die," according to Pennsylvania State Police.

Koch's parents, James and Constance, who live outside the Lehigh Valley city, care for Megan's 2-year-old child. After the child spent Saturday night with Megan, the grandparents scooped the baby back up on Sunday. Megan allegedly threatened them for taking her child.

Megan was arrested about 10 p.m. Sunday, and was charged with one count of terroristic threats and two counts of harassment.

TOMMY ROWAN

Birthday

Constitution Center to celebrate anniversary

Philadelphia's National Constitution Center will celebrate its 10th anniversary next Tuesday with a celebration on Independence Mall.

The event will include a series of scholar-led "Finding the Fathers" discussions at locations around the Historic District and presentations from Revolutionary War reenactors.

The museum will host a social-media scavenger hunt in which participants follow clues to find life-sized cardboard cutouts of historical figures hidden throughout the city.

Constitution Center hours will be extended until 8 p.m., and admission will be free, courtesy of Wawa, as the city also celebrates "Wawa Hoagie Day." The Constitution Center will, in the sandwich chain's honor, host an exhibit on Wawa's story and a quiz on the history of the hoagie. METRO

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Poll: Voters concerned with school funding

Not buying it.
Results show people think more can be done at the state level.

Funding for education dominated over issues like liquor and transportation in findings from a recent poll revealed yesterday that asked state voters where they would most want extra tax dollars to go.

Other findings from the poll — commissioned by Public Citizens for Children and Youth and the state's Budget and Policy Center — showed voters have "serious" concerns about cuts in funding.

Quoted

"The poll shows the public is not really buying into the arguments made by the administration that we can't afford to restore funding [to schools]." Ward

"The majority of voters are willing to pay more in some form or another in order to restore the education funding cuts," said Sharon Ward, director of PBPC, during a conference call yesterday on the poll. "We think that's very significant."

About eight in 10 voters reported they were concerned about cuts in public schools. Almost half said they were very concerned. Women rounded out the most concerned, with 85 percent reporting as such.

Just below education funding for public schools, economic development and jobs were among major issues voters said were top priorities for Gov. Tom Corbett.

"I think this poll shows while there are important public policy reasons to focus on pensions and transportation, they aren't where the voters are," said Donna Cooper, executive director for PCCY. "They want to see action on schools."

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
christina.paciolla@metro.us

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Bump-and-grab

Pickpockets sought

Police are looking for two men who on June 19 used the "bump-and-grab" pickpocketing technique to target an 82-year-old woman shopping at the Weavers Way Co-op in Chestnut Hill. Authorities said one of the men bumped into the woman, allegedly using the moment of confusion to steal a bank deposit bag containing cash and checks. METRO

Presidential

Bill Clinton visits Philly

Former President Bill Clinton will visit the National Constitution Center today. Clinton will join a series of panel discussions with the intent to start a national dialogue on the eroding state of Federalism, which refers to the cooperation between state and federal governments on such issues as infrastructure, education, health care and public safety. METRO

Workin' in the rain

A construction worker braves yesterday's intense rainstorm as he crosses the Schuylkill River on the South Street Bridge.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Local cooks hope for their shot on FOX's 'Hell's Kitchen'

Butter 'em up. One South Philadelphia woman is ready to face chef and host Gordon Ramsay.

Christopher Cassel, a Japanese hibachi chef from Maple Shade, waits to be called during an open call tryout yesterday for the Fox TV show "Hell's Kitchen." / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Denine Giordano isn't afraid of Gordon Ramsay.

"Let him throw shrimp at me? Fine," said the spark plug from South Philly. "I'm waiting for it."

The 23-year-old local line cook joined a group of callbacks who auditioned yesterday in front of talent scouts at the Westin hotel in Center City. The goal: to join the 12th-season cast of the popular reality television show "Hell's Kitchen."

The FOX series features 20 contestants who compete to impress famed chef Ramsay and his taste buds at his Las Vegas restaurant. The sole survivor wins cash or a full-time position.

Giordano, who speaks with a muddy Philly accent, drags her L's: "Everyone says I tawlk different, but I don't hear it."

A CAPA alum, she took two years off before joining the Art Institute of Philadelphia's culinary program. She also works at the Pizza Pub at 20th and Passyunk, where she bartends, manages and cooks. "And I bitch," she added.

Working with her current chef, she said, has prepared her for the big time.

"I'm used to getting screamed at," she said. Her biggest problem: "I don't know how to say, 'Yes, chef,' and JUST, 'Yes, chef.' "

"I'm like, 'Yes, chef, BUT,' " she said. "I'm sorry, I can't help it. I'm from Philly."

Former winners said the show launched their career.

Season 1 champion Michael Wray, who runs a kitchen in Los Angeles, said winning the event was a life-defining moment. Working beside Ramsay built his confidence and taught him to persevere.

"When I was there, he taught me to set my standards high," Wray said.

Giordano explained that she wants the same. A chance to compete.

"Win or not, I'm here just to get my face out there," she said. "The opportunity of a lifetime to stand next to Gordon Ramsay? All right."

Quoted

"It seems like all of these amazing characters come from the East Coast every season. ... We're looking for someone who will bring hell to Hell's Kitchen." Talent scout Debbie Ganz

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Weather

Lightning strike wounds one

A person was reportedly struck by lightning yesterday on the grounds of the Glen Mills School in Delaware County. Emergency crews responded to the boys-only residential facility for juvenile delinquents shortly before 3 p.m. METRO

Arraigned

Alleged killer charged

Thomas Coffee, 23, was formally charged Sunday night in connection with the Friday murder of N.J. man Daniel Cooke, 27. Police said Cooke traveled to West Oak Lane to buy an ATV listed for sale on Craigslist and was subsequently shot in the head. METRO

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Snowden whereabouts unknown as Russia resists US pressure

Safety. Since leaving Hong Kong, he's been looking for a country that can guarantee his security.

Edward Snowden's whereabouts were a mystery yesterday as Russia resisted White House pressure to send him back to the United States or stop him continuing on his journey to escape U.S. prosecution.

Snowden was allowed to leave Hong Kong on Sunday despite Washington asking the Chinese territory to arrest him on espionage charges.

Julian Assange, the founder of anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks which is assisting Snowden, said the 30-year-old had fled to Moscow en route to Ecuador and was in good health in a "safe place" but did not say where he was now.

There are no direct flights to Ecuador from Moscow, and reports that he would fly there via Cuba were put in doubt when witnesses could not see him on the plane, despite tight security before take-off. A WikiLeaks spokesman muddied the waters by saying an approach had also been made to Iceland for asylum.

Ecuador, which is already sheltering Assange at its London embassy, said it was considering Snowden's request for asylum and that human rights were its main concern.

"He didn't take the flight [to Havana]," a source at Russia's national airline Aeroflot told Reuters. REUTERS

Not on board

All eyes on seat 17A as reporters head to Cuba

A planeload of journalists strapped themselves in for a $2,000 flight from Moscow to Cuba with Edward Snowden.

Their first disappointment was that Snowden didn't show up. The second was that it was a booze-free flight.

Flight SU 150 to Havana docked to a boarding bridge at the Moscow Sheremetyevo airport yesterday. Edward Snowden was set to be on the flight, but was not. / GETTY IMAGES

Snowden papers

Ecuador gives a refugee document of passage

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said that Edward Snowden had received refugee papers from the Ecuador government to secure him safe passage as he fled Hong Kong.

"In relation to Hong Kong, Mr. Snowden was supplied with a refugee document of passage by the Ecuadorean government," Assange told reporters from inside the Ecuador embassy in London, where he has been himself hiding from arrest for more than a year. REUTERS

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SCOTUS. Affirmative action case sent back to Texas lower court

Supporters of affirmative action breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as the U.S. Supreme Court avoided a major ruling in a closely watched case on the racial admissions policy at the University of Texas — by sending it back to a lower court.

The case before the justices was brought by Abigail Fisher, a white suburban Houston student who asserted she was wrongly rejected by the University of Texas at Austin while minority students with similar grades and test scores were admitted thanks to the admissions policy.

The court, on a 7-1 vote with Justice Elena Kagan not taking part, said an appeals court did not apply the correct standard in deciding whether the university's policy violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. **REUTERS**

Big rulings

U.S. high court has next session today

With some big rulings left in its waning nine-month term, including two on gay marriage and one on voting rights, the Supreme Court said it would convene again today to announce opinions.

Chief Justice John Roberts made the announcement after the court issued its opinions yesterday in five cases, leaving six more to be announced. **REUTERS**

Clash on shooter's motive in Trayvon Martin murder trial

Don West, a defense attorney for George Zimmerman, displays a photo of his client, from the night of the shooting. / GETTY IMAGES

Case. Zimmerman showed no emotion as he stared straight ahead and away from the prosecutor.

Jurors in a racially charged Florida murder trial heard sharply contrasting versions yesterday of who was the aggressor in a struggle that ended with the shooting death last year of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin by a volunteer neighborhood watchman.

In a fiery opening statement in a Seminole County courtroom, Assistant State Attorney John Guy said evidence would show that the accused murderer, George Zimmerman, had spun "a tangled web of lies" about the shooting in February 2012 in the central Florida town of Sanford.

As the trial opened in earnest after two weeks of jury selection and evidentiary rulings, the prosecutor opened by bluntly quoting from Zimmerman's call to a police dispatcher after first spotting Martin.

"F—ing punks. These a—holes, they always get away," Guy repeated. Guy told the jury those were the "hate-filled words he used to describe a total stranger."

In the defense's opening statement, Zimmerman's lawyer, Don West, sought to paint a different picture, saying Zimmerman was "viciously attacked" by the teen. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"George Zimmerman did not shoot Trayvon Martin because he had to. He shot him for the worst of all reasons — because he wanted to."

Assistant State Attorney John Guy during his opening statement

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The persons depicted are models used only for illustrative purposes.

6 Courses that will make you wish summer were over

Just so nobody forgets that college can be fun, we've compiled the ultimate list of courses that sound like a seriously good time. **BRUCE WALSH**

School may be out, but we haven't forgotten the ways that a classroom can be even more fun than a day at the beach. From zombies to baseball, here are Metro's picks for the courses that would make anyone want to hit the classroom.

Grand-slamming history

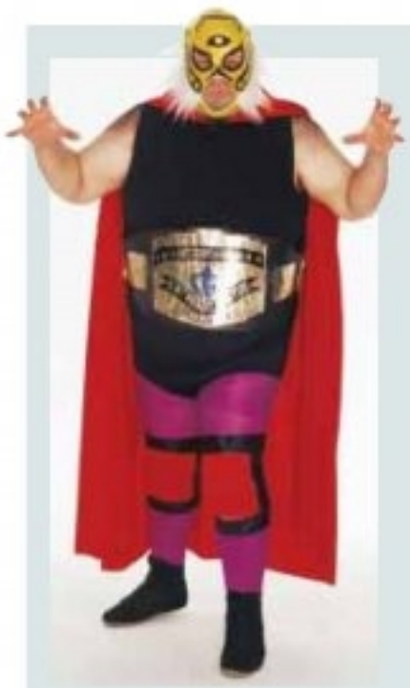
American History and Baseball

Professor: Doug Battema
School: Western New England University
Course: With over a dozen door-stopping books required for the course, Dr. Battema is emptying his intellectual bullpen to show the baseball parallels to key moments in American history — from corporatization to desegregation. "While baseball clearly mirrored the best parts of American society, it also mirrored its racist tendencies — excluding African-Americans, but also demonstrating a lot of hostility toward Irish Americans, Italian Americans, Jews and Latin-American players," says Battema.

Parental Advisory

The Science of Sexy Lyrics

Professor: DorothyBelle Poli
School: Roanoke College
Course: As an outgrowth from her previous course that merged biology and music, Dr. Poli has something new in store for students this fall: Contrasting popular lyrics with Victorian ideals. For Poli, an increased understanding of popular science is what has fueled our liberated notions of love, drugs and pillbox hats.



On the mat

The History of Pro Wrestling

Professor: Sam Ford
School: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Course: Spoiler alert: Pro wrestling is indeed fake. But that won't stop these MIT kids from delving into the cultural and socio-economic implications of machismo in tights. Readings include "Steel Chair to the Head," by Nicholas Sammond.

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We're the walking dead

Zombies, Serial Killers and Madmen

Professor: Eric Smaw
School: Rollins College
Course: In his philosophy class, Dr. Smaw is quick to point out that we all exhibit zombie-like behavior on a daily basis: "Each of us has had the experience of frantically looking around for our cell phones only to look down and realize that the phone is in our hand, but we have no memory of ever having picked up our phone," he says. But what about real-life cases of temporary insanity, when real-life "zombies" commit murder? Professor Smaw says that's not so easy: "Temporary insanity pleas are notoriously difficult to win, and most juries will be immediately skeptical."

Don't have a cow

D'oh! Psych and "The Simpsons"

Professor: Brian P. Meier
School: Gettysburg College
Course: This course asks hard-hitting psychology questions of TV's favorite family: Is Homer naturally careless, or did childhood trauma bring about his regressive, hedonistic state? What about Nelson's rage directed at perceived happiness in others? We won't even start on Maggie's pacifier.

Crawling sideways

The Crab Lab

Professor: Tara Maginnis
College: University of Portland
Course: In this course, students are given free range to delve into any unanswered questions they have about the behavior of crabs, from aggression to locomotion. And how is it that they can lose a leg and grow a brand new one?

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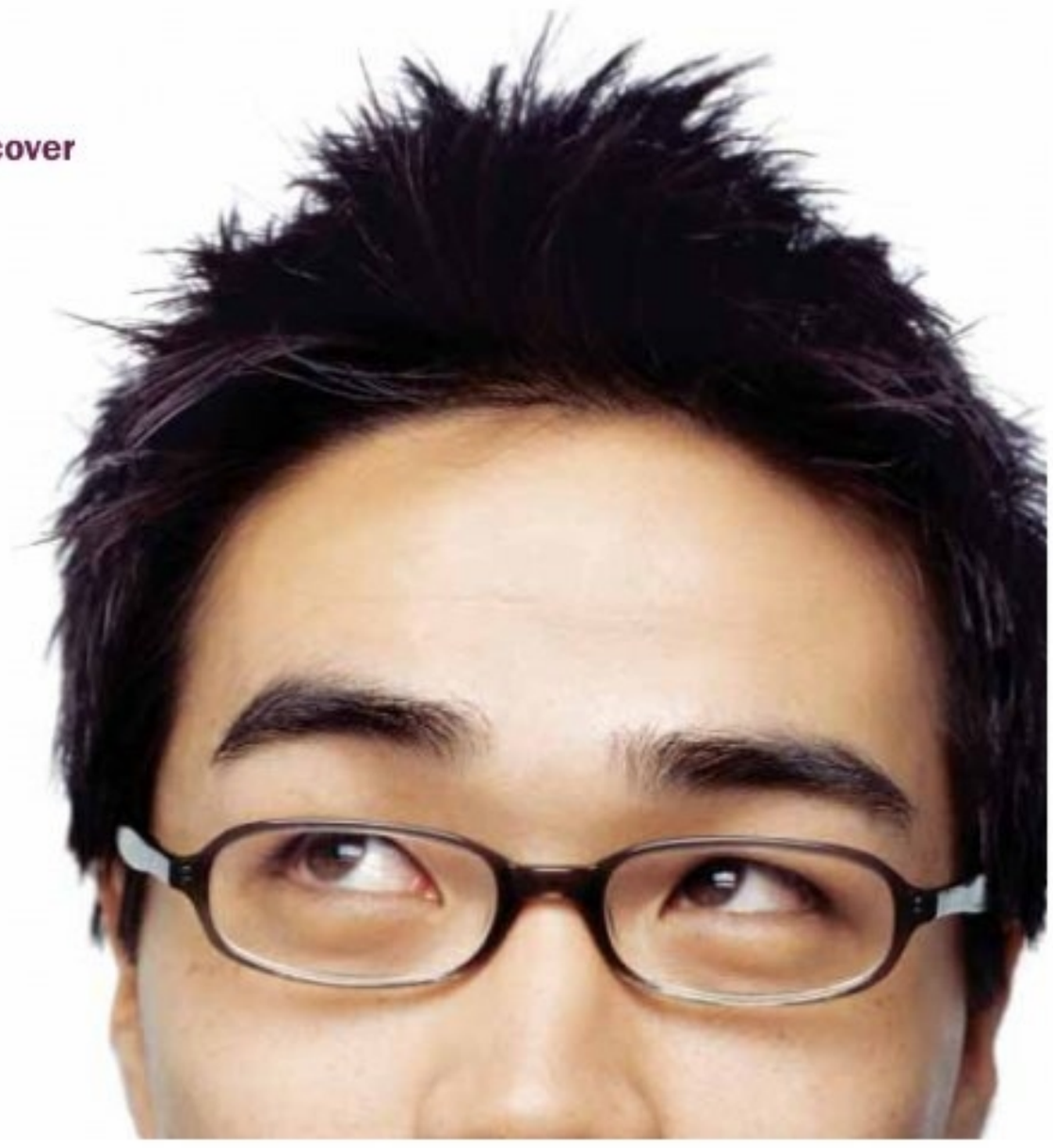

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CULTURE

Talking point

The name 'North West' explained

So there is actual sane reasoning behind Kanye West and Kim Kardashian naming their daughter North West. A report from TMZ says that Kim and Kanye believe North is "their highest point together as a couple ... the pinnacle of the relationship ... and they consider her their 'North Star.'"

That is adorable. But didn't they factor West's last name into this decision? That she is going to sound like a direction for her entire life? Where is the explanation for that?

1

Paula Deen to finally appear on 'Today'

Days after being a no-show on the "Today" show, Paula Deen will be on tomorrow. "She has told us she will be here this time," Matt Lauer said on-air yesterday morning in announcing Deen would appear.

To say that Deen has had quite the week is an understatement. The Food Network very publicly fired her on Friday after The National Enquirer revealed, via a courtroom deposition, that she repeatedly used racial slurs. And yesterday, Smithfield Foods announced it dropped her as its spokeswoman.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Jim Carrey distances self from 'Kick-Ass 2'

Well, here is a publicist's worst nightmare: Jim Carrey is publicly distancing himself from his upcoming super-violent comic book film, "Kick-Ass 2," in light of his recent anti-gun stance. "I did 'Kick-Ass' a month [before] Sandy Hook, and now in good conscience, I cannot support that level of violence," Carrey posted to Twitter. "My apologies to others [involved] with the film. I am not ashamed of it, but recent events have caused a change in my heart."

Channing Tatum and his little dog

New dad Channing Tatum appeared alongside co-star Jamie Foxx to promote their new movie "White House Down" on Univision's Despierta America yesterday in Miami. I'm unsure what's going on with the Chihuahua dressed in pink, other than it's a good look for him. / GETTY IMAGES

3

'Independence Day' seeks independence from main star

The first update to the 1996 smash hit "Independence Day" will be in theaters next year. Remember that movie? That was Will Smith, right?

Well, it was confirmed via director Roland Emmerich in an interview with the Daily News that he'll be overseeing the follow-up to the blockbuster, but without one certain bold-faced name.

"Will Smith cannot come back because he's too expensive, but he'd also be too much of a marquee name," Emmerich said. "We have like, maybe half of the people that you would know from the first film (in the script) and the other half … are new."

According to Emmerich, the plan is to turn "Independence Day" into a franchise with two films currently in the works, entitled "ID Forever, Part 1" and "ID Forever, Part 2."

If launching a sequel 18 years after the original seems weird, it is. Emmerich agrees.

"We're not doing a total reboot; we're doing something that's totally unusual," he said.

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Hot men holding babies

Brad's Baby Bjorn

1 **Brad Pitt** had the perfect carry-on, Knox Jolie-Pitt, on Jan. 27, 2009, in Japan.

Star power

2 **Mark Wahlberg** held his son during his star ceremony on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on July 29, 2010, in Hollywood, Calif.

Le bebe

3 **Orlando Bloom** carried his baby Flynn at Paris Orly Airport on Sept. 28, 2011.

Working baby

4 **Mario Lopez** high-fived his daughter Gia on the set of "Extra" on Feb. 19 in Los Angeles.

Baby it like Beckham

5 **David Beckham** posed with a young fan during his visit to Hangzhou Greentown F.C. on June 22 in Hangzhou, China.

Daddy's little man

6 **Liev Schreiber** and son Alexander were seen on the streets of Manhattan on March 14, 2009.

GETTY IMAGES

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In an endless 'dirty war'

Film. "Dirty Wars" takes a hard look at a government that promised transparency.

Reporter Jeremy Scahill guides viewers through frightening wartime discoveries in "Dirty Wars." / JACQUELINE SOOHEN

Review

'Dirty Wars'

Director: Rick Rowley

Genre: Documentary

Rating: NR

Released as the country is trying to rectify drone attacks and NSA eavesdropping with the more transparent president it re-elected, the quiet documentary "Dirty Wars," which you may have missed among the flood of summer blockbusters, chronicles the recent history of covert and illegal attacks carried out by the U.S. government.

Our guide is Jeremy Scahill, an investigative journalist on staff at the Nation. He's soft-spoken, grave, sad-eyed and a good listener. Indeed, many shots in the film show him listening to locals in Yemen, Somalia and other places where unchecked American Special Forces activity has left civilian lives destroyed. Few journalists are brave enough to venture into these regions — such as Gardez, Afghanistan, where three women and a police chief were killed during a night raid, an act for which America only eventually accepted responsibility.

Scahill's argument, strengthened throughout both the film "Dirty Wars" and his book of the same name (released in April), is that the need to create peace has led America into endless war, and we're creating more enemies than we're eliminating. Due process has been eliminated under a president who ran on doing things differently. Without getting into the conspiracy-mongering of the far right, Scahill calmly and relentlessly needles Obama and company for keeping, and even amplifying, processes introduced during the previous administration. Scahill also goes after the Joint Special Operations Command. They have dirty fingers in places beyond Abbottabad.

As a lead, Scahill has a seriousness that's perversely charismatic, and the film, directed by Rick Rowley, goes overtime to look as striking as its findings are illuminating and disturbing. But it's still inferior to the book, if only because a book has more information, and more information is what's paramount. But as a gateway into a much-needed conversation, "Dirty Wars" is hard to beat.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Let the Weight Be Over!

My weight loss journey began a little more than 2 years ago, during an annual physical. My doctor told me that if I didn't do something about my weight – and fast – that I would likely end up with very serious medical conditions. My five foot frame was carrying 259 lbs.! I had been trying conventional diets for years. I would lose weight, but never the amount I needed to lose, and was never able to maintain the weight loss.

"2 years and 110 lbs. after surgery, and I am still on my journey!" – Lovie

I knew my doctor was right. So, after some research, I found the **Center for Surgical Weight Loss** at Hahnemann University Hospital. With the guidance of the surgeon, the dietitian, and the rest of the surgical weight loss team, I was motivated to get serious about losing weight. In fact, by following the dietitian's advice, I was able to lose 27 pounds even before surgery! I am grateful to the entire surgical weight loss team – they provided the education and support I needed to reclaim my life!*

This surgery is designed for those with a body mass index equal to or greater than 40 or equal to or greater than 35 with serious co-morbidities.

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TV watch list

OLD SCHOOL SITCOM

'Full House'

Remember this episode? Michelle decides it's better to be a boy after her best friend (Tahj Mowry — what happened to that kid?) gets made fun of for being friends with her. Why were cornball family shows so much better in our childhoods? **8:30 P.M., NIK**

Can you feel the love between these two 'Catfish' stars? / MTV

DRAMA

'The Haves and the Have Nots'

We're not sure why we're just now getting around to noticing this show. But Tyler Perry apparently has a (Tyler Perry-presented, of course) dramatic television program on Oprah's network. Will somebody please make him stop it already?

9 P.M., OWN

REALITY

'Family S.O.S. with Jo Frost'

In this episode of a reality show about families unable to handle their own business, the expert counsels a couple that can't discipline their three unruly adopted daughters. Perhaps they might have considered their lack of parenting skills before adopting all those kids?

9 P.M., TLC

REALITY

'Catfish: The TV Show'

The bromance begins anew when Nev and "cameraman" Max (10 to 1 there isn't any film in his camera) suss out the truth behind people's online paramours. We're actually not kidding when we say this: We're very excited this show is back.

SEASON PREMIERE, 10 P.M., MTV

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Philadelphia Ukulele Orchestra brings the 1920s to 40th Street

Music. The quirky ensemble will play the 40th Street Summer Series this month.

Now that summer is here, University City District will once again host free, monthly, family-friendly concerts in the great outdoors of West Philly. The 40th Street Summer Series has seen performers such as Sun Ra Arkestra and Brooklyn Qawwali Party, and this month the Philadelphia Ukulele Orchestra will be providing the entertainment. We caught up with band founder Chris Malcarney to learn a little more about the orchestra's rich background — and the members' made-up names, based on "old-timey diseases."

What's your position in the band?
Well, I'm the de facto leader, I guess, but I don't really like leading. I'm the one who asked my friends to get together and be in this band, so I guess I'm the leader.

How long has the band been together?
About four or five years now. We got together in December of … of four or five years ago! [Laughs]

And there are 12 of you in the orchestra?
There used to be, but two members moved away. One of them still comes back for gigs, though. So we're at 11 when we perform.

Are all your pieces covers?
Yes, they're all covers. It's mostly things from the 1920s and '30s. I always loved the music of that time. I played in a rock band for years, but I never had the chops to pull off

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These orchestra members know their way around a uke.
KATHY BAIER

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JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

these songs on a guitar. But on a ukulele, there are two less strings. One of the members is 83, and he brings us these old songs to play. He knows all that Tin Pan Alley stuff. It's all so catchy, and the chord progressions are great.

Everyone in the band goes by a stage name, yours being Cecil St. Vitas. How did you come up with these?

I made up all the names and back stories for the group. For first names, I went to the Social Security website and looked at the list of most popular names at the turn of the century. Then I tried to think of old timey diseases or just old-fashioned words for last names. I'm not entirely sure why I did it, but I seem to create aliases and make up back stories for most musical endeavors that I'm involved with. It just keeps things interesting, I suppose.

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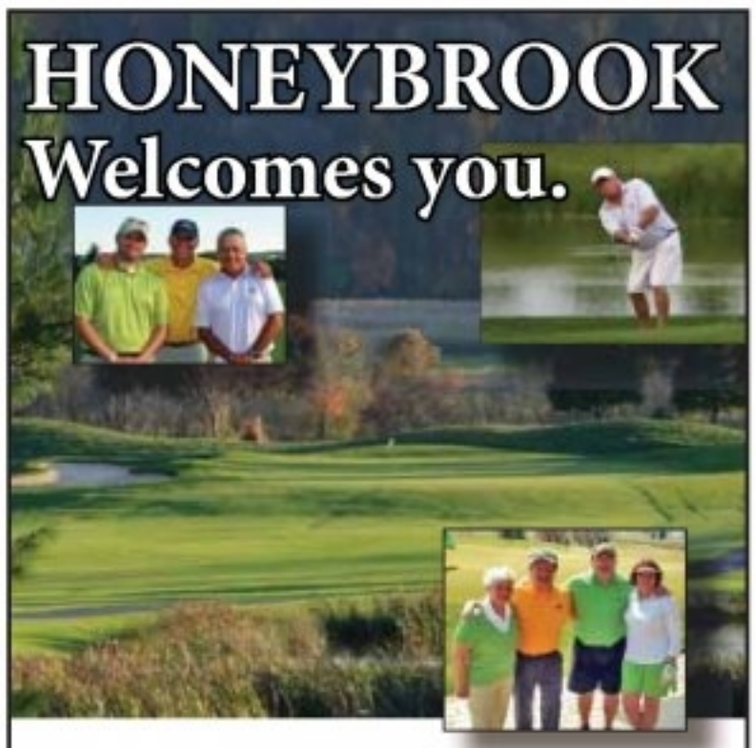

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Writing readings: Psychic twins see roles differently

Fiction. Curtis Sittenfeld gets a little clairvoyant with "Sisterland."

The author of "Prep" and "American Wife" brings us more deliciously detailed characters and their challenges, this time with twins anchoring the plot. In "Sisterland," out today, Kate and her sister Violet have what they call "senses" — what others consider being psychic or, at times, creepy. Kate is convinced it is the latter, and she strives to never be connected with psychic powers. Meanwhile, her sister makes her living performing readings. But the topic lurches to the forefront when Vi senses a huge earthquake will hit their St. Louis hometown, threatening not only to disrupt the carefully constructed suburban lifestyle Kate has with her husband and two children, but also to bring a city to its knees. Sittenfeld, who was inspired to write the plot after reading about a 1990 earthquake prediction, tells Metro about writing about psychic readings.

How did you decide to focus this book around having senses, which is what the characters call being psychic?
There is kind of this built tension when something is supposed to happen by a certain date. Either it happens, or it doesn't happen. After I heard about [the 1990 earthquake prediction], I thought it would be so interesting to think of what that time would be like, from the point of view of not the person who makes the prediction, but the person close to the person, that has an ambivalence about it.

Did anything surprise you while you were writing this?
One day, after I had finished the book … I went to this trinket store to get some stocking stuffers, and there happened to be a psychic giving readings in the back. It was a weekday in the suburbs, and I thought, "Oh my God, it's a sign. I'm meant to go sit down and have a reading." … And then I look over and I see that there's a line of 10 people waiting to see her, and I was like, "There is no way I'm going to wait in line." Then I thought, "Was it a sign, or was it not a sign?" … Things happen in your life and then you attribute meaning to them, so I was like, "This psychic is here to meet with me," and then I was like, "No, there's a huge line. This psychic is not here to meet with me."

What is your writing process?
I took every chapter and laid them out on the floor of the office. … Then I could see what was missing, I could realize I needed to insert something. It helped me because I could visually see it.

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

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An earthquake prediction inspired author Curtis Sittenfeld. / JOSEPHINE SITTENFELD

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Summer is here, and it's time to get up, get out and explore with your kids. They'll totally ace the "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" essay if they partake in any of these.

1 Become a junior park ranger

Most of our national parks, monuments and historic sites offer a Junior Ranger program, enabling kids to learn about these sites while completing a series of educational and observational activities. Upon completion, children recite the oath and receive an official badge or patch from a ranger. Some parks, like Badlands National Park in South Dakota, even have a Junior Paleontologist program. Meanwhile, certain states, like Georgia and Maryland, also offer Junior Ranger programs in their state parks.

Your child can be a Junior Paleontologist at Badlands National Park. / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2 Get picking at a fruit festival

Summer is ripe with fruit festivals, with lots of favorites — like cherries, peaches and blueberries — in season. Grab a basket to fill up on pie-filling favorites. Many festivals also have hay rides, bike rodeos and concerts. At the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, Mich., you can even participate in a cherry pit spitting contest. If you go to the Hopkins Raspberry Festival in Minnesota, don't forget to hunt for the golden raspberry.

Encourage your child to reach for the highest hanging fruit. / CREATAS

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The National Mustard Museum hosts its "tribute to the king of condiments" on Aug. 3, National Mustard Day. / PROVIDED

3 Visit an oddball museum or factory

Surprise your kids with a museum visit they'll never forget. The National Mustard Museum in Middleton, Wis., for example, has more than 5,500 jars of mustard that make up The Great Wall of Mustard. Or, milk a mechanical cow and enjoy all the free ice cream samples you can eat at the Turkey Hill Experience in Lancaster, Pa. Interesting museums lurk around every corner, so find one close to you to give your kids a far-from-everyday family outing. Other offbeat favorites include the SPAM Museum in Austin, Minn.

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The feminine touch

Trending.
Menswear is becoming all about women. A growing band of female designers are changing the way men dress.

Sarah Burton's Alexander McQueen S/S '14 show was a standout during the collections. / CATWALKING.COM

For centuries, men have dominated the fashion houses with their ideas about how women should look. But a growing band of women designers are getting a little of what's owed, tackling menswear with radical approaches and immense talents. It's about time, too.

From Sarah Burton's twisted creations for Alexander McQueen to swaggering new kids like Katie Eary, Martine Rose and Astrid Andersen, most of the collections unveiled during London's recent menswear shows had women designers at the helm.

The redressing of gender imbalance is laudable, but how does it impact the clothes on the runway and, ultimately, what men wear?

Andersen believes that the increased numbers of women designing for men was inevitable. After all, she says, "Women know how they want men to dress."

But that's not the whole story.

"The best designers have their own unique aesthetic. And whether that is women designing for men, it is the aesthetic that counts," argues Terry Betts, buying manager at Mrporter.com. Although he concedes, "I feel women think about how the clothes work for men in 'real life.'"

Rather than focusing on the gulf between womenswear and menswear, these female designers are increasingly taking traditional elements of how men and women dress and juxtaposing them to reinvent the menswear genre. Burton's spring 2014 menswear show provided a case in point. She poked fun at stereotypical "feminine" flourishes like lilac lace, billowing silk and even Mary Jane shoes by blending them with McQueen's signature tailoring. The results didn't feel girlie at all.

While lace suits might not be for everyone, this liberated approach has a trickle-down effect. This means, according to Betts, "Men are definitely willing to take more risks."

LIBBY BANKS
Metro World News

Analysis

Fringe benefits

Perhaps their "outsider" status makes it easier for women to question the norms of men's fashion with objectivity.

- "The perceived restrictions on menswear make it much more interesting to play with," says designer Martine Rose, who considers Prince her dream client. Astrid Andersen, whose signature look combines hip-hop references with feminine color and fabric, agrees: "What I love with menswear is that there is no escaping functionalism, but with womenswear there are always loopholes."

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Sneak math into summer

Learning. Help your child find out, 'Are we there yet?'

This summer, when your child asks, "Are we there yet?" on that family road trip, you can bust out a new answer.

Surreptitiously relating everything to math helps children use their noggins in the summertime, suggests Glen Whitney, co-founder and co-executive director at Manhattan's Museum of Mathematics.

"Summer's a great opportunity, if you're out doing things, to make math more connected with the world," he says.

Whitney says summer can be a prime time to sneak math into warm-weather activities, from a routine summer family road trip to a baseball game.

"Kids are naturally curious, and they want to be able to figure out things," he says. "They want to figure out how long it's going to take me to save up for that skateboard."

Whitney gave Metro a few ways to sneak math into summer activities.

When your kids ask that quintessential question, 'Are we there yet?,' make it a math problem

Ask them to calculate how far away you are and how long it will take to reach your destination. This may also be a chance to invoke the "when I was your age" card: "When I was a kid, you had to look at the little numbers on the map and look them up," he recalls.

Make sure they don't forget what they learned in the classroom. / CREATAS

Bring children along while you shop for a camping trip or barbecue

Explain the budget and, as you approach the checkout, ask them to tabulate a rough estimate of how much everything will cost.

Point out shapes

If you are in the city, for example, ask kids what shapes they see. A building could be a rectangle, and a roof could be a triangle, to name a few. This introduces kids to, or helps them keep up with, basic geometry.

Play the 24 game

Look at the numbers on different license plates and ponder how they might add up to 24. For example, with a license plate of 2261, a child could put together that two times two is four, which equals 24 when multiplied by six.

ALISON BOWEN
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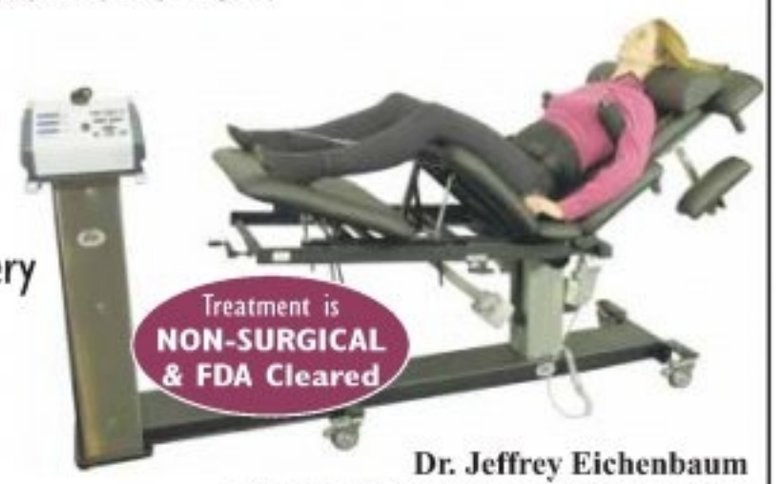

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Horoscope

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Be alert for some material opportunities since you could gain from a situation initiated by another.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Upon first hearing, some of your mate's ideas might sound outlandish, but after careful evaluation, you might judge them to be much more clever than you thought.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. This is a good day to try out a new method or system you've been contemplating for some time.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Strive to fulfill your social obligations, especially if they could lead you to some new people. You could meet someone very interesting.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. A situation of importance that hasn't been going your way recently could take a turn for the better.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. There could be good reason why someone has been lingering in your thoughts. Get in touch with him or her.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. You could be in a fortunate cycle where your finances and material interests are concerned.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. You're a quick thinker, and your spontaneous notions are likely to be very good. Be prepared to act promptly.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. There's a good chance that you could reap some rewards from a past good deed. This remuneration may come about from someone else.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. One of your greatest successes is likely to come from a new interest. In your case, new will be better.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Initially, you could be unsure when you find yourself challenged by a unique development.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Things in general should go much more smoothly for you than of late, owing to a constructive change of attitude. You'll now be able to see positive possibilities.

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Sudoku: Easy and hard

3				4				9
	4				1	6	7	
			8		6	5		
		9	4		2	7	8	
				9				
	8	3	7		5	4		
		5	1		3			
	3	7	2				4	
9				7				8

								9
8		1						
	3			2	1	6	7	4
2	5			3	8			1
	8						3	
4			1	5			6	8
3	9	8	5	6			1	
						3		6
7								

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

'Tolerant' should practice what they preach

It's regrettable that recent appeals for tolerance have resulted in the opposite. I think that most people, regardless of where they stand on religion, are good people who have the capacity for love, compassion and tolerance. Recognizing our common humanity and being respectful of our individual differences are rational alternatives to divisiveness and injustice. You may not need religion to be good, but I hope you can be accepting of those who do.

LINDA WHITTAKER, VIA EMAIL

One path to truth

Which process is more likely to lead us to objective truth? Option one: Read that someone who heard voices long ago disapproved of shrimp and gay people. Declare one opinion to be absolute truth. Done. Option two: Consider what premises seem likely to be true. Reason carefully about what conclusions follow from those premises. Re-examine whether it still seems likely that the premises are true. Repeat indefinitely. I know which approach I'm more optimistic about.

DAN WYLIE-SEARS, VIA EMAIL

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Crossword

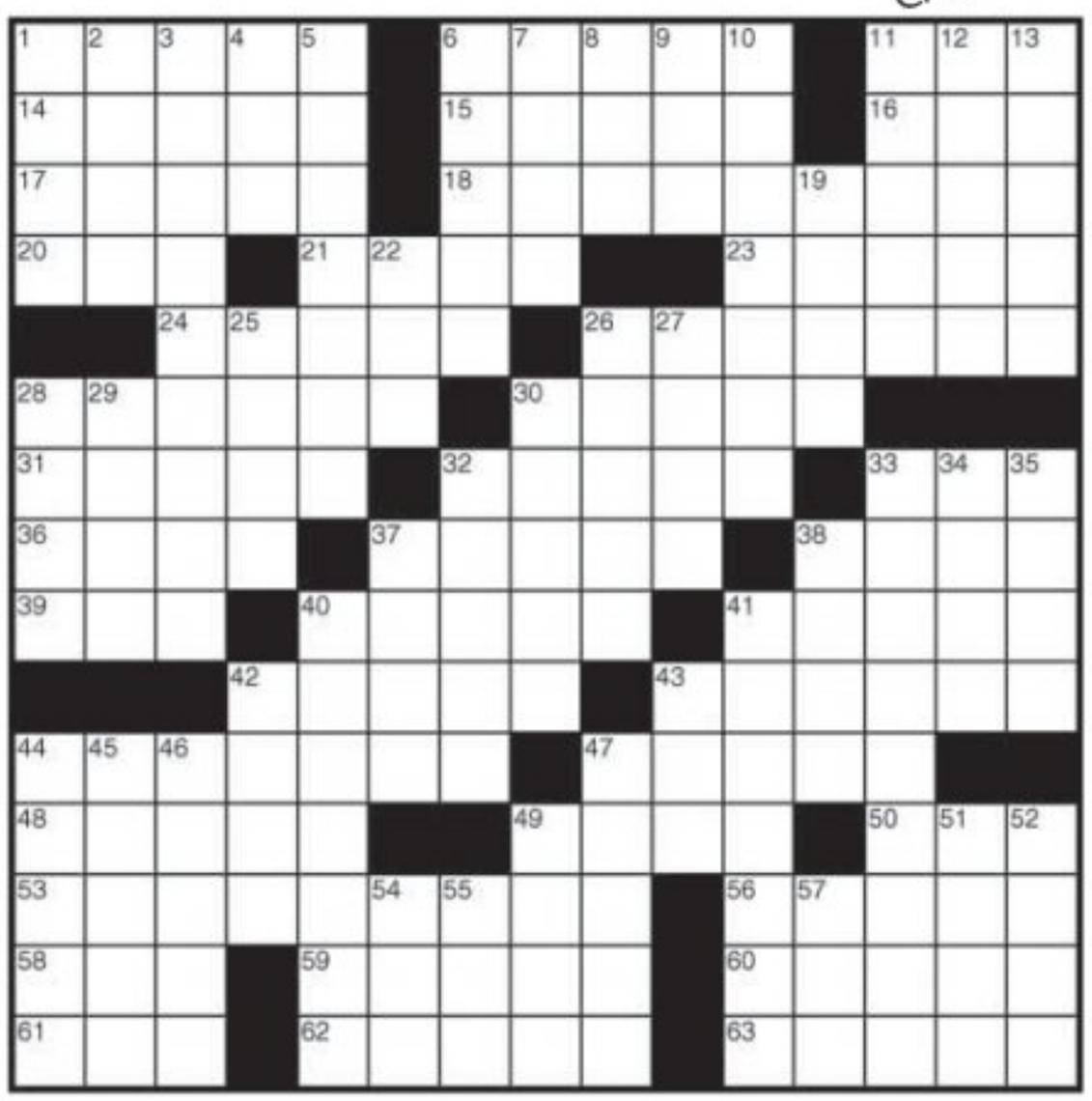
Across

1 Held one's own
6 "Gold" or "black" ender
11 Infuriated
14 Defense ploy
15 Sun, in combos
16 "Honest" fellow
17 Boughs
18 Talk, talk, talk (2 wds.)
20 — -eared bunny
21 Shape or form
23 Desist
24 Post of etiquette
26 Intended
28 Put into words
30 Reserves a flight
31 Undersized pups
32 Pomme de —
33 Lightning by-product
36 Pointed arch
37 Welsh dog
38 Lectern
39 TV knob
40 Fish-like
41 Oldie "Stupid —"
42 Burn slightly
43 Thick liquids
44 Dwindles
47 Broadcast again
48 Sighed with relief
49 Daughters' brothers
50 Tooth pro's deg.
53 Impasses
56 Moron
58 Pipe bend
59 Arsenio's buddy
60 Pat's cohost
61 Do batik
62 Sacks out
63 Psychic — Cayce

Down

1 Phone
2 Jumble
3 "The Scarlet —"
4 Diminish
5 Brush aside
6 Timidly
7 Beowulf's drink
8 Sort
9 Dressy accessory
10 Flapjack
11 Uxmal resident
12 Humble
13 Faked out the goalie
19 Desires
22 Yea, to a matador
25 Spouse
26 Gershwin hero
27 Petty or Loughlin
28 B.C. or N.S.
29 Sci-fi award
30 European capital (var.)
32 Kitchen tool
33 About to happen
34 NYC theater award
35 Drowses off
37 Film
38 Mystique
40 Square dance musician
41 Handwritten
42 Kind of pearl
43 Coop
44 Hit the ceiling
45 Bright and —
46 Atacama Desert locale
47 — are red ...
49 Comedy routine
51 Lady of Spain
52 Black hole, once
54 Keats opus
55 LP successors
57 Parent

Yesterday's answer



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BOOM, THUD! PHILLIES WINDOW FINALLY CLOSED

The Voice of Philly Sports

ANGELO CATALDI

The team president thinks three good decisions out of 10 is impressive. The ace of the staff is 2-11. The closer blew three saves and lectured his teammates about fundamentals. Listen very closely, Philadelphia. That sound you hear is the window of opportunity slamming shut on the most successful era in Phillies history.

It's over. I know it, you know it, even the Phanatic knows it. The only people who still have faith in the 2013 Phillies are the three men running the team — president Dave Montgomery, GM Ruben Amaro Jr. and manager Charlie Manuel — and deep down, they must suspect the truth by now, too.

The Phillies have been a .500 team, at best, for two years. Since Ryan Howard ripped his Achilles tendon on the final play of the 2011 playoffs, the Phils have been a sad facsimile of their glory days, a team with many of the same names but none of the old magic.

Unfortunately, this reality eludes the people running the team, especially Montgomery, a man who actually said: "God knows we're all trying to bat 1.000 on decision-making. The reality is, I think we do better than the .300 standard in baseball." That milestone is for hitting, not decisions. Doesn't he realize that? Shouldn't somebody tell him?

Montgomery also said in that interview that Amaro isn't the only member of the front office responsible for the dysfunctional makeup. The president insisted that all of the major moves were organizational decisions. In other words, if you're expecting this to be Amaro's last chance here, forget it. Montgomery is fiercely loyal, to a fault. Amaro is going nowhere.

Meanwhile, Cole Hamels has been healthy all season, and he has lost more games before July 1 than any Phillies pitcher in 76 years. When he gets no offensive support, he loses, 2-1. When the team does hit, he finds a way to give away the lead. He was the MVP of the 2008 World Series, and he is the LVP of the 2013 season. He doesn't need a pitching coach. He needs a shrink.

And Papelbon, the quirky closer with a big mouth, is not faring well these days on or off the field. His comments about the Phillies lacking fundamentals would have been far more effective if he didn't violate the fundamentals of his own role by falling behind hitters, walking the leadoff man, and giving up home runs.

They are a mess, these 2013 Phillies. And they will remain so until Montgomery stops living in the past. The core of star players he keeps waiting for has been here all along, and they are not good enough anymore to continue the most exhilarating era in Phillies baseball.

The window has closed. It's time to start looking for a new one.

Jonathan Papelbon blew three saves last week and threw his teammates under the bus. / GETTY IMAGES

3 SPORTS

Watch online

Find video and recap from last night's Phillies-Padres game at **Metro.us/sports.**

Analysis

Stupid is, stupid does in Atlanta

On the day I became a full-time radio host at WIP in 1990, my co-host Tom Brookshier pointed to the microphone and said: "That's a loaded gun. Be careful." I will leave it for others to decide how well I have heeded Brookie's advice, but I know I've never been as stupid as the hosts in Atlanta who mocked ALS victim Steve Gleason last week.

The radio geniuses at "Mayhem in the AM" in Atlanta thought it was hilarious to simulate a voice for Gleason and have the terminally ill former NFL player make ignorant comments during one of the most ill-conceived bits in radio history. They were fired for a gross lack of judgment, but no punishment is harsh enough for such an evil act.

As someone who was there at the birth of the sports-radio format, I have seen the demands of the profession evolve from straight sports talk many years ago to the mix of sports, current events and entertainment that are essential for survival today. Hardcore fans ask me why I don't just stick to talking sports. I always give the same answer: "Because I'm trying to keep my job." Straight sports simply doesn't hold enough of an audience. You can look it up. The ratings don't lie.

So I understand why those bozos tried to be funny; it's part of the job description, especially in morning radio. What I will never understand is how a man courageously battling a horrific disease could become fodder for satire. It is unimaginable, unforgivable.

Remember these three names: Steven "Steak" Shapiro, Chris Dimino and Nick Cellini. If you hear their voices, change the station. They have lost the right to work in radio.

ANGELO CATALDI

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Opinion. Flyers now turning backs on own storied, proud legacy

After what happened with the Flyers last week, you are forgiven if you now believe there is no justice in the hockey world. Danny Briere, a true gentleman who has embraced Philadelphia, was told he will be released from the Flyers after six years of exemplary behavior here. Ilya Bryzgalov, a braying jackass who has maligned Philadelphia, is still on the team. Go figure.

The current state of our underperforming hockey team is on full display as GM Paul Holmgren decides which of his many roster mistakes he can undo. The new collective bargaining agreement allows two exemptions from the salary cap for bad contracts.

At 35, Briere was an obvious choice for one of those moves, but not nearly as obvious as Bryzgalov, who has been an embarrassment on and off the ice. The Russian goalie could still get cut, but only if the Flyers make another move in net.

The situation begs several simple questions: Why is Bryzgalov's status contingent on finding a veteran goaltender? Exactly what justification could there be for keeping him and the $34.5 million burden on the salary cap? Is this just another example of the Flyers holding out hope that Bryzgalov is something other than the biggest bust in team history?

The Flyers have always personified the best qualities in professional sports: loyalty, honor and commitment to excellence. If they keep Ilya Bryzgalov, they will be turning their backs on their own proud legacy. He needs to go. Now.

ANGELO CATALDI

Idle thoughts

Here are a few items that Angelo Cataldi wanted to get off his chest:

- Charlie Manuel, who has done a horrible job managing the Phillies this season, finally snapped after Friday's loss. Don't worry. He didn't vent anger at any of the players who have underachieved. No, he went after a reporter, which is what bullies do.
- In a fan poll last week, 55 percent said they enjoyed football more at the old, dirty Vet than at the Linc. Sometimes a place fits a city, and sometimes it doesn't.

Bryzgalov might be the biggest bust in team history. / GETTY IMAGES

Axe man

Sixers fire CEO and marketing guru

In a surprising move, the Sixers fired CEO Adam Aron. The Sixers refused comment yesterday. Fox 29's Howard Eskin first reported it. Aron, a marketing guru best known for interacting with fans on Twitter, did have partial ownership in the Sixers. It's unclear whether he will retain his stake. Last month, it was reported that the franchise had stripped Aron of some duties.

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Philadelphia International Airport operated by the City of Philadelphia, hereby publishes a proposed overall three year goal for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program for Federal Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, and 2016 for the Philadelphia International Airport. The proposed overall goal is 15.9% for all FAA-AIP funded projects. The methodology used in developing this goal is available for inspection during normal business hours, until **July 8, 2013**, at the **Philadelphia International Airport, DBE Compliance Program Office, Terminal D/E – Executive Offices, Philadelphia PA 19153.** The Airport will receive and consider public comments on the proposed goal until **July 22, 2013.** Comments may be submitted to the Airport at the above address.

For additional information and questions, please contact **Cobi Duncan, Executive Assistant to the Director of Compliance at 215-937-5535.**

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